

## **CLAIMS**

### **Claims 1-73 (currently cancelled)**

**Claim 74 (new):** A method comprising:

forming an annular reinforcing structure integral with a female end portion of a segment of polymeric material configured as a conduit.

**Claim 75 (new):** The method as defined in claim 74 wherein the annular reinforcing structure is formed by:

subjecting the polymeric material proximate the distal end of the female end portion to conditions sufficient to render the material plastic; and  
turning the material proximate the distal end axially backward.

**Claim 76 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the material proximate the distal end is turned axially backward and radially inward.

**Claim 77 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the material proximate the distal end is turned axially backward and radially outward.

**Claim 78 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the integral annular reinforcing structure has a circular cross-section.

**Claim 79 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the integral annular reinforcing structure has a semi-circular cross-section.

**Claim 80 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the integral annular reinforcing structure has a U-shaped cross-section.

**Claim 81 (new):** The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the integral annular reinforcing structure has an S-shaped cross-section.

**Claim 82 (new):** The method as defined in claim 74 wherein the annular reinforcing structure is formed by:

subjecting the polymeric material within a segment of the female end portion to conditions sufficient to render the material plastic; and  
forming an annular bead from the polymeric material within the segment.

**Claim 83 (new):** The method as defined in claim 82 wherein the annular bead is located at the distal end of the female end portion.

**Claim 84 (new):** The method as defined in claim 74 wherein the integral reinforcing structure is formed by:

adding an annular bead of material to the female end portion.

**Claim 85 (new):** The method as defined in claim 84 wherein the annular bead of material is added to the distal end of the female end portion.

**Claim 86 (new):** The method as defined in claim 84 wherein the annular bead is formed of the same material used to make the female end portion.

**Claim 87 (new):** The method as defined in claim 74 further comprising forming an outwardly flared portion within the female end portion of the pipe section.

**Claim 88 (new):** The method as defined in claim 87 wherein the outwardly flared portion terminates at the distal end of the female end segment.

**Claim 89 (new):** The method as defined in claim 74 wherein the integral annular reinforcing structure is located slightly inward from a distal end of the female end portion.